



# ZIKA PROGRAM

## PARAGUAY

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In February 2016, the World Health Organization declared that clusters of Zika-associated microcephaly and other neurological disorders detected in Brazil constituted a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. USAID is responding to the Zika virus epidemic and its devastating effects in at-risk countries throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Program implementation began in June 2016 and is expected to end by September 2019.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

By investing in Zika prevention, control and innovation USAID is helping strengthen Paraguay's capacity to respond to the current epidemic and future disease threats. USAID's focus is to protect individuals, particularly pregnant women, from Zika by:

- Controlling mosquitoes that spread the virus;
- Increasing awareness of how the virus is transmitted and how to prevent infection;
- Supporting health services for potentially affected women and children; and
- Working with USG counterparts to support disease detection and surveillance.

## **VECTOR MANAGEMENT**

Through the Zika AIRS Project (ZAP), USAID strengthens the capacity of partner governments to implement vector control programs and to monitor and eliminate mosquito populations, particularly the *Aedes Aegypti* species that transmits Zika. Technical assistance is provided to Ministries of Health in planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating vector control activities in conjunction with Servicio Nacional de Erradicación del Paludismo (SENEPA). ZAP conducts training on entomological monitoring and insecticide effectiveness for mosquito control, supplying specific equipment needed for entomological activities, and developing national guidelines for integrated vector control management. This work is complemented by USAID's partnerships with the Pan American Health Organization that supports the Ministry of Health in adapting regional guidelines for integrated vector management, and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), with entomological surveillance tools and training.

## **MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH INTERVENTIONS AND SERVICE DELIVERY**

USAID is integrating high quality, evidence-based Zika services and guidelines into existing family planning, antenatal, obstetric and newborn care systems. The Applying Science to Strengthen and Improve Systems (ASSIST) project works with the Ministry of Health and 15 health care facilities to help providers integrate Zika prevention, diagnosis, and care for affected families into routine health services. The ASSIST project has supported the development of quality improvement teams, provided virtual training on Zika to healthcare providers, and worked with the Ministry of Health to update norms and guidelines on neonatal care and psycho-emotional support. Meanwhile, UNICEF is building national systems to ensure access to quality care and support resources for families affected by Zika. Service delivery efforts in Paraguay receive additional support from the procurement and delivery of personal mosquito repellent and condoms to prevent sexual transmission of Zika to pregnant women through the Global Health Supply Chain Program.

## **SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE COMMUNICATION**

As USAID learns more about Zika, it is working at the national, regional and local levels to inform people of how it spreads and how they can protect themselves. In 2016, UNICEF launched a multi-channel mass media campaign in Asuncion and is disseminating educational materials aimed at reaching pregnant women and women of reproductive age with information about Zika and its risks.

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